

Washington State Patrol

Media Release

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WSP TO INCREASE DYED DIESEL CHECKS

Captain Coral Estes of the Washington State Patrol (WSP) Commercial Vehicle Division (CVD) announced today an increase in the number of checks for the presence of dyed diesel in commercial motor vehicles.

Diesel with a red dye in it indicates no tax is collected on the fuel. Currently the federal government collects 24.4 cents per gallon of diesel in tax while Washington State collects 34 cents a gallon on regular diesel. Red dyed diesel can be used in unlicensed vehicles such as backhoes and some farm equipment.

"With the additional 3 cents on the state tax effective July 1, 2006, we are seeing an increase in the illegal use of red dyed diesel", stated Trooper Brian Messer.

Emphases are planned for around the state in coming months. A fine of \$1,000 is assessed by the Department of Licensing when red dyed diesel is found being used illegally in a fuel tank. Violators are also subject to a citation and additional court fines.

To report the illegal use of red dyed diesel, you can call 1 (800) 497-FUEL. All calls are confidential.

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